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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/602,849

06/24/2003

Daniel N. Nikovski

MERL-1467

9295

7590

02/22/2005

Patent Department
Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories, Inc.
201 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02139

EXAMINER

SALATA, ANTHONY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,849

Applicant(s)

NIKOVSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan Salata

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 11-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8-4-03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 2837



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Washington, D.C. 20231

Paper No:02162005
Application No:10/602849
Filing Date: June 24,2003

1. Claims 8,13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim dependency is incorrectly numbered as 8 and 13 for each claim.

Claim 13 interval is unclear.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-7,11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uetani (4458787).

Uetani teaches in figures 1-15, an elevator group supervisor control system.

1,15) A plurality of cars 1-3 receive calls 11A –11C for passengers (existing) and future calls of passengers, comparator 12 takes the lowest of the weighted values 11aA-11aC of wait time and outputs to allocate the car with the lowest value.

Art Unit: 2837

Future calls are determined by usage data and predetermined operating characteristics.

2) see diagram figure 5.

3,5,7,11-13) Formula column 11.

4,6,14) Interpreted by examiner based on usage and predetermined characteristics. Note figure 6 element 84 and reset.

4. Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Claims 9,10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The prior art does not teach or reasonably suggest an average time interval based on top/bottom round trip, or the landing pattern interval discount or Poisson process with the stated rate.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Umeda, brand '049,'431, Tsuji '711,'817, Ookobo, Siikonen '636,'874, Iwata and Barker et al are cited to illustrate similar assignment estimators for elevator group controllers.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 months from the date of this letter.

Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Any inquiry of a **general nature** should be directed to the **Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2800**.

Information regarding the STATUS of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PARI. Status information for unpublished

Art Unit: 2837

applications is available through Private PAIR ONLY. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Any questions on access to PAIR, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO 2800 Fax Center located at Crystal Plaza 4. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 O.G. 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 2800 Fax Center number is (703) 872-9306.

For assistance in Patent procedure, fees or general Patent questions calls should be directed to the Patents Assistance Center (PAC) whose telephone number is 800-786-9199. Assistance is also available on the Internet at www.uspto.gov.

For requesting **copies** of Cited Art, Office Actions or the like, or General Problem solving, calls should be directed to the TC 2800 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is 703-306-3329 or by fax at 703-306-5515.

Any inquiry concerning **this communication or earlier communications from the examiner** should be directed to Jonathan Salata whose telephone number is (571) 272-2073. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin, can be reached on (571) 272-2107.

ajs

February 16, 2005


JONATHAN SALATA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2837